

Appl. No. 10/668,880  
Amdt. Dated June. 25,2004  
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2004

### **REMARKS**

Applicant appreciates acknowledgment of allowability of claim 3-14. Please be noted that Claim 21-24, which were presented in page 16 of the specification, should have been listed in office action.

#### ***Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)***

Claims 1 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsai et al.

Regarding claim 1, an electrical connector assembly as defined comprises an insulating housing, a plurality of mating ports and a first, a second and a third terminal group. The insulating housing comprises a first array of receiving spaces thereof and a first array of cavities thereof and respectively communicating with the receiving spaces. **The mating ports are assembled to the insulating housing and respectively received in the cavities of the insulating housing.**

Referring to Tsai et al., an electrical connector assembly comprising an insulating housing (2), a plurality of mating port (222), a first terminal group (3), a second terminal group, and a third terminal group (5). The insulating housing comprises a first face and an opposite second face, the insulating housing comprising a first array of receiving spaces extending from the second face toward the first face thereof and a first array of cavities (223) extending from the first face toward the second face thereof and respectively communicating with the receiving spaces; However, **each mating port of Tsai et al. is respectively integrally formed on a corresponding**. Therefore, claim 1 of the present invention is

Appl. No. 10/668,880  
Amdt. Dated June. 25, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2004

significantly different from Tsai et al and should be patentable

Dependent Claims 15, which depend from independent Claim 1, are also believed to be patentable over the above-mentioned.

Regarding claim 16, an electrical connector assembly comprises an insulating housing, a plurality of signal terminal, a plurality of grounding terminal, and a mating port. The insulating housing comprises a cavity. **the mating port assembled to the insulating housing and received in the receiving space.**

As discussed above, Tasi et al's mating ports are integrally formed the insulating housing. Therefore claim 16 of the present invention is significantly different from Tsai et al and should be patentable.

Dependent Claim 25, which depends from independent Claim 16, are also believed to be patentable over the above-mentioned.

***Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)***

Claims 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai et al (6,234,834) in view of Winning et al (6,068,520).

The Claim 1 disclosed an electrical connector assembly as defined comprises an insulating housing, a plurality of mating ports and a first, second and third terminal group. The insulating housing comprises a first array of receiving spaces thereof and a first array of cavities thereof and respectively communicating with the receiving spaces. **The mating port assembled to the insulating housing and received in the receiving space.**

Tasi et al. discloses an electrical connector assembly comprises an insulating housing (2), a plurality of mating port (222), a first terminal group (3), a second

Appl. No. 10/668,880  
Amdt. Dated June. 25, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2004

terminal group, and a third terminal group (5). The insulating housing comprises a first face and an opposite second face, the insulating housing comprises a first array of receiving spaces extending from the second face toward the first face thereof and a first array of cavities (223) extending from the first face toward the second face thereof and respectively communicating with the receiving spaces.

Winning et al discloses asymmetrical arrangement of the connectors.

However, **Each mating port of Tsai et al is respectively assembled on one insulating housing.** Nether Tsai et al nor Winning et al disclosed a **plurality of mating ports are assembled on a insulating housing.** Assembling several mating ports on one insulating housing can decrease the size of the connector, and conquers the difficulty of Tsai et al. Therefore, independent Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Tsai et al in view of Winning et al.

Because independent Claim 1 is patentable, dependent Claim 2, which depends from independent Claim 1, is also patentable over Tsai et al in view of Winning et al.

Claim 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai et al (US 6,234,833) in view of Tsai et al (US 6,234,834)

Regarding claim 18, a multi-port connector assembly comprises a unitary insulative housing, a plurality of mating ports, plural groups of signal terminals, at least two grounding terminals, a spacer, and plural sets of transition contacts, the insulative housing comprises a plurality of cavities and a plurality of receiving space.

Tsai et al (US 6,234, 833) disclosed a multi-port connector assembly comprises an unitary insulative housing (1) defining a plurality of cavities (11) arranged in rows in a front portion, respectively; the cavities being arranged in a

Appl. No. 10/668,830  
Amdt. Dated June. 25, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2004

column, plural groups of signal terminals (3) forwardly inserted into the corresponding receiving spaces, respectively, said groups being similar to one another, at least two grounding terminals (34) each with arms extending into the corresponding receiving spaces, respectively.

Tsai et al (US 6,234,834) disclose a spacer (6) located behind the housing.

Neither Tsai et al (US 6,234,833) nor Tsai et al (US 6,234,833) does not disclose the connector comprises a unitary insulative housing. The connector in either the Tsai et al or the Tsai et al has a plurality insulative housing. The contacts must be inserted into plural insulative housings. Comparing with the present invention, the process is complex and the cost is increased. Therefore, independent Claim 18 is believed to be patentable over Tsai et al (6,234,833) in view of Tsai et al (6,234,834).

Dependent Claims 20-24 and 26, which depend from independent Claim 18, are also believed to be patentable over the above-mentioned.

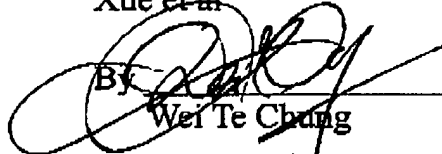
Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tsai et al (US 6,234,834) as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Winning et al.

Because independent Claim 18 is patentable, dependent Claim 19, which depends from independent Claim 18, is also patentable. Moreover, Winning et al. essentially discloses an overlapping arrangement between the two columns while the instant application defines no overlapping in the vertical direction.

In view of the above specification and claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Appl. No. 10/668,880  
Amdt. Dated June. 25, 2004  
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